



IIDP DATA RESOURCE TRAINEE SCHOLAR AWARD (DRTSA)



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Section I. Funding Opportunity Purpose

The Integrated Islet Distribution Program (IIDP) announces a new funding initiative, the **2023 IIDP Data Resource - Trainee Scholar Award (DRTSA)**, that is intended to advance research in human pancreas biology and islet research by providing trainees with support and access to detailed donor and islet data via contained within the IIDP's Research Data Repository (RDR) that will enable important secondary analyses to explore the relationships among donor characteristics, islet phenotyping, and genetic risk.

I-1 Key Dates:

Posted Date:	May 16, 2023
Informational Webinar:	June 1, 2023 @ 1 PM Pacific, click here to register
Letter of Intent:	June 15, 2023 (courtesy only)
Application Due Date:	July 31, 2023
Scientific Review:	6-8 weeks post receipt
Start Date:	October 31, 2023

Section II. Funding Opportunity Description

II-1 Award Objectives and Scope:

Studies supported by these awards should focus on key questions in diabetes research. IIDP data, including detailed donor, islet isolation, post-shipment phenotyping, and genetic risk data will be made available to award recipients via the IIDP's Research Data Repository (RDR). A comprehensive list of data points available via the RDR can be viewed here: <https://iidp.coh.org/Investigators/Research-Data-Repository>. An informational webinar will be held by the IIDP to help orient potential applicants to the IIDP and its data holdings (June 1, 2023 at 1 PM Pacific, click [here](#) to register).

Upon conclusion of the project, all award recipients will be asked to provide feedback on the design and functionality of the RDR to assist the IIDP in improving the RDR's future functionality and utility.

IIDP encourages all applicants to consider how sex as a biological variable may be factored into research designs and analyses, and it supports the use of unbiased and well-controlled experimental designs, methodologies, analyses, interpretation and reporting of results to ensure adequate rigor and reproducibility in research.

Section III. Award Information

Funding Instrument:	Subcontract, awarded from the IIDP-Coordinating Center
Funds Available:	IIDP intends to commit approximately \$50,000 in 2023 to fund up to 5 awards.
Award Budget:	Awards are limited to \$10,000 including any applicable F&A costs. As is customary for NIDDK supported career development awards, Indirect Costs (Also known as Facilities & Administrative [F&A] Costs) are reimbursed at 8% of modified total direct costs.
Project Period:	The maximum project period is 12 months.

Section IV. Eligibility Information

IV-1. Eligible Applicants

Private Institutions of Higher Education

The following types of Higher Education Institutions are encouraged to apply for support as Public or Private Institutions of Higher Education:

- Hispanic-serving Institutions
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
- Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)

Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education

- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)

For-Profit Organizations

- Small Businesses/For-Profit Organizations (Other than Small Businesses)

Foreign Institutions

- Non-domestic (non-U. S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) **are NOT** eligible to apply.
- Non-domestic (non-U. S.) components of U.S. Organizations **are NOT** eligible to apply.
- Foreign components, as defined in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), **are NOT** allowed.

IV-2. Required Registrations

None

IV-3. Additional Information on Eligibility

Number of Applications: Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.

IV-4. Eligible Individuals

IV-4.1 Requirements for applicants applying to this FOA include:

- Individuals must currently be in a mentored predoctoral or postdoctoral trainee position.
 - **Postdoctoral Fellows:** Candidate must hold a PhD, MD, MD/PhD, or equivalent degree signifying comparable academic and research experience.
 - **Graduate / Medical Students:** Candidate must be currently enrolled in a PhD, MD, or equivalent degree program (e.g., EngD, DNSc, DrPH, DSW, PharmD, ScD) in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences at a domestic institution (or visiting foreign student with a mentor who is on faculty at domestic institution).
- Candidates must obtain an Open Research and Contributor ID (ORCID).
- Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
- There is no citizenship requirement for the applicant. Applicant may be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States, been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551, or other legal verification of such status).
- Investigators are eligible to receive only one award under this initiative.

IV-4.2 Mentorship

The candidate must designate a mentor who will supervise activities to be pursued under this award. The mentor should be an active investigator in the area of the proposed research and be committed both to the career development of the candidate and to the direct supervision of the candidate's activities. The mentor's statement (described in the Appendix) must document the availability of sufficient support and facilities to ensure success of the candidate's proposal. The candidate must work with the mentor in preparing the application. The mentor should have a successful track record of mentoring individuals at the candidate's career stage.

Section V. Application and Submission Information

V-1. Content and Form of Application Submission

- **Application Forms:** It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in the DRTSA Application. Conformance to the requirements in the application is required and will be strictly enforced. Applications that are out of compliance with these instructions may be returned without review.
- **Letter of Intent:** A letter of intent (LOI) is not required, it is not binding, and does not enter into the review of a subsequent application. However, the information provided in the LOI allows IIDP staff to estimate the potential review workload and plan the review. By the due date listed above, prospective applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent that includes the following information:
 - ❖ Descriptive title of proposed activity
 - ❖ Name, address and telephone number of the applicant
 - ❖ Participating institution
 - ❖ Names of other key personnel
 - ❖ One sentence description summary of the project aims and/or goals

The letter of intent should be sent in electronic form to James Cravens, IIDP Program Manager:

To: jcravens@coh.org

Subject line: 2023 IIDP Data Resource Trainee Scholar Award

V-2. Instructions for Application Submission

Applications will be completed via a Recap webform. Click [here](#) to start an application. Should you need to save your application and return later to complete it, click on "Save & Return Later", and record the unique return code that is provided.

V-2.1 Title

The title should be short and descriptive of the proposed research. Maximum space limit is 81 characters, including spaces.

V-2.2 Abstract

The abstract should be a self-contained description of the project. It should contain information about the significance, broad objectives, hypotheses, specific aims, and methods to be employed. There should be a statement describing how the project relates to the mission of the IIDP and the DRTSA program. All abstracts for funded applications may be made available through the IIDP public website. The maximum length is 500 words.

V-2.3 Key Personnel/Biosketches (form pages)

Provide biosketches for the applicant and Mentor. Biosketches should be presented in a format that adheres to current NIH template guidelines (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>).

V-2.4 Facilities and Other Resources (form page)

Provide information to verify that the environment provides the organizational and research resources that will be required to perform the study as designed.

V-2.5 Budget and Justification (form pages)

Present and justify expenses required to achieve project aims and objectives. Special forms are provided for the budget and justification (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-h/general/g.320-phs-398-modular-budget-form.htm>).

Use the Budget Justification to provide the additional information requested in each budget category and any other information to submit in support of the budget request. If you have a quote(s), you may include it here. The following budget categories must be justified, where applicable: equipment, travel, participant/trainee support, and other direct cost categories.

Also use the Budget Justification to explain any exclusions applied to the F&A base calculation.

If your application includes a subaward/consortium budget, a separate Budget Justification must be submitted. See [G.310 - R&R Subaward Budget Attachment\(s\) Form](#).

V-2.6 Specific Aims

Describe concisely and realistically the goals of the proposed study, specific objectives and hypotheses to be tested, summarize expected outcomes, and describe potential impact of findings research objectives of the diabetes investigator community. The maximum length is 500 words.

V-2.7 Research Strategy

The research plan should conform to the following instructions with careful attention to use of the headers and word limits outlined below:

Project Summary (no longer than 30 lines of text): describe succinctly significance, objectives, and methods to be employed.

Significance (500 word limit): Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that is being addressed. Describe how your objectives and research design align with the DRTSA program objectives and how success will advance research in pancreas biology and/or diabetes research.

Innovation (500 word limit): Summarize clearly and concisely how your project demonstrates novel statistical or computational methodology.

Approach (File upload, 3 page limit): Number the sections in this part of the application to correspond to the numbers of the Specific Aims. This section should include the following information:

- an overview of the statistical design and analysis plan;
- a description of methods and analyses to be used to accomplish aims;
- a discussion of potential difficulties and limitations and how these will be overcome or mitigated;
- expected results, and alternative approaches if needed;
- a timetable of work to be pursued;
- a discussion of how results will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted;

- A description of any new statistical methodology to be used and why it represents an improvement over existing methods.

Note: Figures and illustrations may be included in the Research Strategy section but must fit within the page limit. Bibliographic citations are not required but if included must fit within the page limit.

V-3. Appendix materials

- **Resource Sharing Plan:** Individuals are required to comply with instructions for providing Resource Sharing Plans as provided in [NIH guidance](#).
- **Mentor's Statement:** Each application should include a statement from the mentor outlining his/her research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor, the nature of the supervision and mentoring that will occur, and a plan for monitoring the awardee's progress toward defined goals.

Section VI. Application Review Information

VI-1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. Consistent with the IIDP mission, all applications submitted will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit using external peer review.

- **Overall Impact**
Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to provide important findings that will advance the field of pancreas biology.
- **Review Criteria**
Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.
 - ❖ **Significance:** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project?
 - ❖ **Innovation:** Does the application use novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or methodologies? Alternatively, is a refinement, improvement, or new application of existing theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies proposed?
 - ❖ **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the research objectives? Has the applicant presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Is rigor and reproducibility of any assays or outcomes adequately considered and described? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?
 - ❖ **Investigator & Mentor:** Does the trainee have a record of academic success and the scientific background and training needed to accomplish aims of the project? Is the mentor recognized as an accomplished investigator in the proposed research area and does the mentor have a track record of success in training postdoctoral fellows or graduate students?
 - ❖ **Environment:** Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources adequate for the project proposed?

VI-2. Review and Selection Process

- Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by external peer reviewers convened by the IIDP using the stated review criteria. As part of the scientific peer review, all applications:
 - ❖ May undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit (generally the top half of applications under review) will be discussed and assigned an overall impact score.
 - ❖ Will receive a written critique.
 - ❖ Appeals of the IIDP peer review **will NOT** be accepted for applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity. Applications will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity. Final funding decisions will be made by IIDP and NIH staff, with consideration of the following:
 - Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review
 - Availability of funds
 - Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities

VI-3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

After review of the applications is complete, the recipient will be notified as to funding decisions by August 1, 2023.

Appendix - Application Guide

The following items will be collected as part of the application:

- [Face Page \(form page 1\)](#)
- **Project Abstract**
- [Biographical Sketches](#)
- **Facilities and Other Resources**
- [Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period](#)
- [Budget Justification Page](#)
- **Specific Aims**
- **Research Strategy (as detailed in Section V-2.7)**
- [Checklist](#)
- **Supporting Documents:**
 - [Resource Sharing Plan](#)
 - **Mentor's Statement**

Contact Information:

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